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Opening Announcement

Popular Theatre

(Formerly the Orpheum Theater)

This theatre has been thoroughly renovated and opera chairs installed, and will open its doors for the first time on

Saturday Evening,
December 7th,

FEATURING

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CANNIBALS CONVERTED

Vella Lavella is one of the Solomon Islands, about 30 miles long, and eight miles wide, with a population of about 5,000 natives and four whites.

Up to six years ago the island was the scene of many a cannibal feast and horrible rite, the Vella Lavellans bearing an unenviable reputation for ferocity and treachery. They were among the most notorious of the head-hunters. Cannibalism, strangulation of widows, and other hideous customs are now things of the past. A European may travel from end to end of the island without fear of molestation, says the Sydney Morning Herald of November 14th.

How has this wonderful change come about? Not by Government punitive expeditions, where frequently the innocent suffer more than the guilty, but by the ceaseless toil and perseverance of an earnest young Methodist missionary, with his whole heart and soul in the work—the Rev. R. C. Nicholson, of Bendigo, Victoria, who was the first white man to settle on the island six years ago. He was two years there without apparently making any impression whatever. Still, he plodded on cheerfully, and at the end of four years had the great joy of baptizing his first convert.

There have been scores of converts since. All the people on Vella Lavella are not Christianized yet—far from it—but the leaven is spreading, and will, he confidently believes, permeate the whole lump before very long.

Work for the Savages
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson arrived in Sydney by the Mindini on Saturday. Mr. Nicholson has had a bad attack of fever, and has come to Australia to recuperate. He spoke very enthusiastically yesterday of his own work, and of that being carried on by the Rev. J. F. Goldie at Rubiana. Ninety per cent of the natives of the latter place, who had a very bad character till recently, had come under mission influence. Mr. Goldie had established a very fine plantation, and it was hoped by its means to make the mission self-supporting. He himself was also developing a plantation on Vella Lavella, to train young men to habits of industry. Now that they had put down the once popular amusement of head-hunting, it was necessary to provide some other occupation to save them from the banes of idleness, that was so prolific of evil everywhere. Hence they aimed at establishing industries, and making useful members of society of the natives. Some of the boys on the mission station, who had engaged in many a head-hunting raid, were now able to read and write in their own language, and were particularly smart at arithmetic. The work at the outset had been of a very uphill character. It was not till four years after he had been there that his first baptism took place. They were slow to make church members of natives. They kept them under observation for many months, and did not baptize till a real change in life was noted. The consequence was that the natives on the mission station, who would go out as missionaries themselves among those who still lived in darkness, had been tested, and they would have no misgivings as to their conduct.

Girls Sold
According to native custom, the girls are sold to the man with the longest string of shell money. The equivalents of the prices offered ranging from about £3 to £5 in English money. The girls were not consulted in the matter by their parents at all, and if one was sold to a man she did not care about, she took the first opportunity of strangling herself. That custom was still in vogue. Another custom that they had succeeded in stopping was the strangulation of a man's wives when he died. If he had no wife, then some useless, decrepit old woman used to suffer the fate. During the first three months of Mr. Nicholson's residence on the island, 12 cases of strangulation occurred in the vicinity of the mission station. Mr. Nicholson had, he said, collected all the old widows whom nobody wanted, and established a widows' home, teaching them sewing and domestic work, and letting them spend the rest of their days amid cheerful surroundings instead of dragging out a miserable existence in the villages. Mrs. Nicholson was also carrying on very encouraging work among the girls. They came to the station as dirty little creatures, covered with sores. As the result of constant scrubbing, nourishing food, and healthy life, their skins soon became glossy, and their faces got a polish like mahogany, and they were always merry and bright. The transformation was astonishing. Christianity had a wonderful way of lighting up the faces of those whose hearts it touched.

Speaking of the industrial development of the Solomons, he said that no group had made greater headway during the past few years. He thought that alien labor must sooner or later be introduced, though he did not recommend it. There were great tracts of country lying idle, and that seemed a pity. The labor problem would soon reach an acute stage.

BEWARE OF COLDS.

Children are much more likely to contract the contagious diseases when they have colds. Whooping cough, diphtheria, scarlet fever, and consumption are diseases that are often contracted when the child has a cold. That is why all medical authorities say beware of colds. For the quick cure of colds you will find nothing better than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It can always be depended upon, and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii—advertisers.

FINE PROGRAM AT INSTITUTE

Encouraging reports concerning the good work done along lines of aiding seamen at the port of Honolulu are expected to be received at the Tenth Anniversary of Honolulu Seamen's Institute, the gathering to be held tomorrow evening at the institute building.

Under the direction of Chairman L. Tenney Peck, an interesting program has been prepared. Principal features of the evening will include stirring addresses from Chairman Peck, Judge Stanford B. Dole, "The Church and the Sailor" will be the topic selected by the Right Reverend Henry Bond Restarick, while Superintendent F. W. H. Everett, who for years has been identified with the work among seamen will submit the annual report of the institution.

Several musical numbers have been provided in which Miss Gemma Wadman, Raymond McGrew, Mrs. A. G. M. Robertson, W. A. Love, Mrs. C. S. Weight, Miss MacDougal, Arthur H. Jones and Mrs. Gunn will participate.

The election of officers is expected will follow. The program in its entirety is as follows:

Part One
Novelette, Op. 21, No. 1, Schumann
Miss Gemma Wadman
"The Sailor's Life" Old English
Mr. Reynold McGrew
"April Morning" Batten
Mrs. A. G. M. Robertson
a—Salut d'Amour Elgar
b—Souvenir d'Hardelot
M. W. A. Love
Chairman, Mr. L. Tenney Peck
Address, Hon. Stanford B. Dole
Treasurer's Report, Mr. J. C. Cook
Address
The Rt. Rev. Henry Bond Restarick
"The Church and the Sailor"
Superintendent's Report
Mr. F. W. H. Everett
Part Two
"Ye who have yearned alone"
Mrs. C. S. Weight
(Violin obligato, Mr. W. A. Love)
"A Sisterly Scheme" Bunner
Miss MacDougal
"I'll Sing Thee Songs of Araby"
Frederick Clay
(From Lalla Rookh)
Mr. Arthur H. Jones
Aesthetic Dance
Mrs. Gunn

THIRTY VOLCANOES ERUPT IN TONGA

An account of the volcanic eruption at Niuafou, one of the outlying islands of the kingdom of Tonga, has just been received in Sydney from one of the white residents of the island. There are only two Europeans on this remote place, which has a native population of about 1200, says the Sydney Morning Herald of November 14.

"At about half-past 6 o'clock on the morning of October 7," the letter runs, "an eruption occurred a few hundred yards out to sea and just as the sun crept over the horizon we could see a huge column of smoke and steam rising to a tremendous height. Then we heard shouts of 'Vela! vela!' (meaning fire). The natives had seen it, and were running about in great excitement. Within five minutes after the outbreak everyone on the island had heard the warning cries. Not ten minutes had elapsed before another volcano broke out inland, followed in quick succession by several others, and at nine o'clock this evening there were at least 30 volcanoes active, some within a few yards of each other, while others were several chains apart, extending to a distance of five miles. It is a magnificent sight to see all these volcanoes throwing out molten lava, some of which is ejected to a height of several hundred feet. The sound of it all is similar to that of quick-firing field guns.

"Thirty Yards Away"
"It was within a hundred yards of one volcano when suddenly another broke out about 30 yards away, and I had to run for my life. As it was, I received a small burn on my arm. Besides these volcanoes there are thousands of jets of various sizes, and these form a splendid spectacle, and cover some four or five square miles. The last volcanic disturbance in Niuafou took place 26 years ago, the outbreak occurring on September 26, so to celebrate this the natives, on September 16 of each year hold a 'kaibuna' and have a feast which everyone on the island attends. They also hold church service in the open air and dance and sing all night. The previous outbreak to the above happened 22 years ago, and in exactly the same area as the present one. At that time there was a village there, and when the outbreak occurred, on a Sunday evening, several hundred people lost their lives, and the village was buried in lava."

Niuafou is an island about 10 miles across famed for the enormous size of its coconuts, and as being the habitat of the mako, a bird remarkable for laying an egg out of all proportion to its body. In the middle of the island is a beautiful lake, about three miles across, formed in a huge crater. On one side the shore slopes gradually till it becomes almost level with the surface of the lake, and palm trees grow right down to the water's edge, forming a marked contrast to the precipitous cliffs, towering almost perpendicularly to some 200 or 300 feet on the other side.

A logging train fell through a tree in the forest and 7 people were killed. The train was carrying a load of timber to the port of Niuafou. The train was carrying a load of timber to the port of Niuafou. The train was carrying a load of timber to the port of Niuafou.

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